

Claims 2 and 17 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection moot.  
Withdrawal of rejection is respectfully requested.


*Summary*

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect. If it would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to confer with Applicants' undersigned attorneys.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the claims as originally filed, the cancelled claims, and all other claims supported by the specification.

Respectfully Submitted,

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 19-2387 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

August 8, 2000

